

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1001

By Hurley

A RESOLUTION to name a bridge on U.S. Highway 70 in Roane County in honor of William "Bill" Ferguson.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who sacrificed personal safety and concerns to defend our nation during times of war; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than Mr. William "Bill" Ferguson, a native of Roane County and a proud veteran of the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, a Chief Mechanist Mate in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Mr. Ferguson was on duty at Pearl Harbor when Japanese forces attacked the installation on December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, now one of fewer than twenty Pearl Harbor survivors still living in Tennessee, Mr. Ferguson has served his peers with distinction as state chairman of Pearl Harbor Survivors; and

WHEREAS, after completing his military service, Mr. Ferguson was a farmer for awhile and later worked for the Knoxville water department; and

WHEREAS, he eventually began working for the Tennessee Valley Authority where he was a model of efficiency for his colleagues; he is now enjoying the fruits of his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ferguson bravely served his country during its time of greatest need, and it is thus most appropriate that a bridge in his native county should be named in his honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the west-to-east segment of the bridge spanning the Clinch River on U.S.

Highway 70 between Kingston and Midtown in Roane County is hereby designated the "William 'Bill' Ferguson Bridge" as a lasting tribute to a gentleman who served his country with honor and dignity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in the first resolving clause as the "William 'Bill' Ferguson Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing contained in this resolution shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment of any bridge described in this resolution as the "William 'Bill' Ferguson Bridge".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation.